

February 2016
Volume 6, Issue 1

Staking Your Place: A White Ribbon Day Event

By Anne Purcell



From Left: Anne Purcell, Ane Valoa and Revd Brenda Reed outside the Glen Innes Family Centre

How do you make a connection between violence prevention and reducing the use of plastic bags?

In Glen Innes, we found a way to link two different campaigns into one powerful message. Our White Ribbon Day event 2015 took place on the morning of 25th November 2015 outside Glen Innes Family Centre in Auckland.

Planning and actions involved collaboration between:

- Tamaki WRAP - Waste Reduction Action Project
- HEART Parenting –Healthy Relationships in Tamaki, an evidence based approach to Family Violence Prevention in Tamaki
- Glen Innes Family Centre Staff Team
- St. John's College student on Placement- Rev. Brenda Reed

The event involved having the opportunity to 'Stake your Place' for healthy relationships, families, community, homes. Publicity about the event was distributed through local businesses and community organisations as well as out individual networks. Word of mouth works best in our community and we featured a local couple on our publicity. We created a large white ribbon placed at the centre of our 'pop-up Labyrinth'. The Labyrinth created a pathway for people to walk to the

centre and place a small individual white ribbon stake made from a re-purposed plastic bag. Children, families, students participated on their way to school or college. The Labyrinth was a focal point, creating a spot for photos as well as individual reflection on the walk to the centre and back.



One of our Local Neighbourhood police team officers got stuck in on the day showing his support for family violence prevention as well as the launch of the campaign to reduce the use of plastic bags.

Community members were actively encouraged to stay around, join us for breakfast or participate in some of our other activities. We started a book of Yes – actions and ideas to say

yes to in our community, people added their personal statements and reflections –some were really powerful. The event prompted opportunities to take our conversations to a deeper level – one woman shared her personal journey and comments –‘this is so empowering’. A college student yelled out to a passing friend –‘come and do this, it’s really reflective!’

Community leaders reflected together about how they were able to find ways into conversations regarding violence prevention through their sports coaching. They acknowledged how sensitive it can be to begin conversations but how they found ways to support local families. One person walked past the Family Centre every day and found out what was on offer. She left realising that she could share this information about our services for families with close family friends who were going through a hard time.

The White Ribbon Day event didn’t stop there. Ideas generated were taken back to St. Mary’s Church, about 200m down the road to the church service on Sunday 29th November as part of

the 16 days of activism against gender based violence. The church congregation were invited to put their support behind creating banners to put up on the church building. We agreed on:

‘Say YES to loving words and Actions’ and **‘Say NO to violent words and actions’**. These banners have stayed in place right over Christmas and into the New Year.

The collaboration between different community groups was what made this event both possible and such a success. We encountered people in the community talking about our presence outside family centre on that morning for weeks after.

Our hope is that we will build on this awesome collaboration in 2016, continuing to stake our place together in Family Violence prevention in our local community. This event has demonstrated for me, that when people with passion and a heart for their local community get together to plan, ideas are sparked and creativity flows.

For further details and a copy of our White Ribbon Day resource pack contact anne@gifc.co.nz

The Glen Innes Family Centre is a not-for-profit community agency that provides a number of preventative specialist programmes that offer holistic support to at risk families, youth and the elderly. Anne Purcell oversees the Community Development Parenting programmes at the Centre. In the past she worked for the Diocese of Auckland, The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia and continues her support as an Anglican women of faith through the Anglican Women’s Studies Centre.



Creating The White Ribbon Day Labyrinth

A breathing space was created outside the Family Centre by mowing a Labyrinth in the grass.

We introduced the Labyrinth with minimum explanation, giving people opportunity to walk to the centre to place a white ribbon stake, reflecting on what a healthy relationships means for them, or what changes they would like to see in our community.



'Come and give this a go –it's really reflective!' Local student going to college



'The labyrinth really helped me slow down and take a breath this morning' Local Yoga Teacher

'This is really empowering'

Local woman reflecting on the impact of family violence in her whanau

By Revd Brenda Reed



In Samoa I used to be involved with White Ribbon Day through All Saints Anglican Church activities. These coincided with the activities that were organised nation-wide by the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development (MWCSD), the Ministry of Police

and Non-Government Organisations (NGO's). These are all part of the partnerships forged to promote and participate with the Convention on the Elimination on Violence against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

The 16 Days of Activism activities were spear headed by Men in the Community including Pastors, well known Community Leaders and members of Parliament. Activities included coverage by Media -TV and Radio, radio talk back shows, school involvement, awareness programs in villages and public forums and debates. Before coming to St John Theological College in Auckland, I recall Official Openings of White Ribbon Day with a

Church Service and a March through Apia led by the Police Band. I remember also a touching and Spiritual end to the 16 Days of Activism culminating with a Candle light Service in the heart of Apia - everyone dressed in white, from all denominations offering worship and prayers to stop the violence against women and children.

As part of my practicum for a Summer School paper (MMC 607 – *Ministry Practicum: Applied Ministry Skills and Ministry Formation*) I had a placement at the Glen Innes Family Centre and was involved with their planned activities for White Ribbon Day. I found it very exciting as the majority of the people in Glen Innes have Pacific Island ancestry. The idea came to me to involve our Church people, especially the small group of children I led to participate in White Ribbon Day activities.

St Mary's Cooperating Church, Glen Innes where I worshipped, was just down the road from the Centre so a wonderful opportunity arose to conduct activities on the theme for the prevention of violence against children and domestic or family violence as part of the Children's Sunday programme.

As the presider and preacher, on the 28 November the theme was introduced and the congregation were enabled to make a decision on having a Banner hung on the side of the Church facing the road. They also chose the Words for the Banner. Posters were also put up around the two sides of the St Mary's fence that face the roads. The children gave out white ribbons and other resources supplied by the Family Centre. Members of the congregation voiced their appreciation at having a say in the community. One said to keep the banner up over the Christmas and New Year holidays as that was when it was really needed. It is still up today.

My grandchildren were very excited about these activities and took white ribbons and distributed them at St Thomas School. My grandson talked to the Principal, the teachers and his whole class about White Ribbon Day. He was given a Principal's Award that said *Awarded to Laki Lamositele Room S7 for "educating the class about the serious issue of domestic violence and encouraging them to support the issue by giving everyone white ribbons to wear. It is people such as yourself, who make a difference."* These words for me sum-up our hope and desire for a positive response from the community.



Photo: James Matavao

LEAVING CHURCH: A Memoir of Faith

Book Review

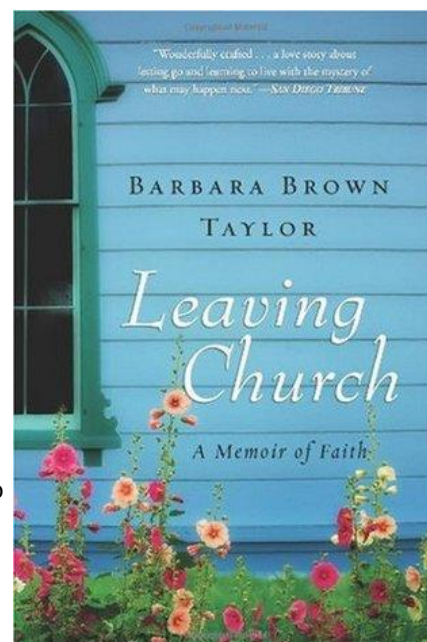
By Barbara Brown Taylor

Archdeacon Val Riches writes:

Leaving Church touched my heart and invited me into a deep journey with it. It gave words to things I had experienced and left unacknowledged – like the exhaustion of leading a church conflicted over the homophobia issues and the weariness that comes from always being treated differently as the monster regardless of the context, and the awkwardness of being in a worldly context such as a New Year's Eve cocktail party.

One of the delights in the book was it was leaving church not faith – in fact it was inspirational as it explored an ever enlarging God and the personal challenge of moving from the secure dream job to being a nobody and learning to worship from the pew with theology jarring the soul from hymns she would prefer not to sing.

Thirty years ordained, living on a little bit of land, two horses and chooks all compounded to make me resonate very deeply with her story. She tells it in a very readable, disarmingly honest and vulnerable way. It's possibly the first book I have read twice in three months – maybe now I will look for a small group of people (women?) to explore the book together as it includes questions for discussion on each chapter!!!!



Introducing AWSC Link Representative **Revd Rosemary Carey**

From the Diocese of Waiapu



I am a colourful patchwork of 66 years in the making, sewn together with strong family roots and a happy childhood. I was strengthened in my teenage years by a pleasant boarding school experience followed by three years at Teacher's Training College, which saw a young confident woman emerge in the

early 70's. I married Bryan when we were both 21 and we grew up together overseas for five years enjoying the freedom of no responsibilities and having lots of adventures before returning to New Zealand in 1976.

By 1984 we had three daughters, and had settled in Hamilton when a friend invited us to a "Life in the Spirit" course. This began my adult Christian faith journey quenching a newly discovered thirst to read and understand scripture.

In 1990 we took our family to Canada on a teaching exchange, and on our return settled in a Christian Community on the outskirts of Hamilton. I continued to explore Special Education, as an advisor and then as Senior Teacher in a large primary school before I was invited to set up the Special Learning Department at Southwell, an Anglican Prep school in Hamilton in 1995.

In 1999 in support of my husband Bryan, who had accepted a scholarship at St Johns Theological College, I resigned from my role at Southwell and moved up to Meadowbank in Auckland, where for three years I taught as a Special Education Coordinator, completed four Theological papers, a CPE Course, and a Diploma in Special Education at Auckland Training College. During this time I was accepted as a Vocational Deacon and was ordained at the end of 2001. It was also the time I woke up to the fact that while Bryan had completed two degrees since our marriage, I had not achieved one and it was time I did!

I accepted the role as Deputy Principal at Tirau Primary School at the end of 2001, where I remained until I took up an NZEI scholarship to complete my Bachelor of Teaching at Waikato which coincided with our move back to Hamilton. Then I returned to Southwell as Head of the Special Needs Department where I stayed until I was priested in 2007 and accepted the role of Priest in Charge of St Mary's Gordonton after being Deacon in charge there for two years. Another CPE followed along with an invitation to be an Enabler to a Local Shared Ministry Team in Hamilton City, as St Mary's grew to become a viable Parish.

We moved to Morrinsville in 2011, where I was invited to teach at the Catholic Primary School, and assisted Bryan with family and children ministry at St Matthews.

In 2010 I had published "The Walnut Legacy". It is an historical novel around my Chinese great grandfather's story which has since been translated into Cantonese and Mandarin and is selling well. I am now researching and writing its sequel.

Two years ago we moved to Havelock North in order for Bryan to become Vicar of St Luke's. Since arriving I have enjoyed locum Hospital Chaplaincy and locum school Chaplaincy at Lindesfarne. I then became the Chaplain at Hereworth Prep School last year and teacher of Religious Education. It is a good fit for a teacher/preacher/writer like me!

In 2014 our seventh grandchild was born. My life is abundantly full of family, friends and ministry opportunities and I am very content.

To be the Waiapu Link for AWSC is a wonderful 'life-giving' opportunity for me. I look forward to being able to encourage and inspire other women to be open to God's calling wherever they are and seek to grow their faith with the opportunities that God opens up for them. I thank God for the privilege to be able to serve a season in this ministry.

If any Anglican woman in the Diocese of Waiapu would like to be linked with AWSC, please contact Rosemary directly by email on rbcarey.carey@gmail.com or Phone (06) 877-8473 (021) 203-5895 or by post 18 Rakau Street, Havelock North 4130

The Centre for Anglican Women's Studies (AWSC)

Karena de Pont, Administrator

Email: anglicanwomenstudies@gmail.com or anglican.wsc@clear.net.nz

Home Office Phone: + 64 9 422-0102 Cell Phone: 027 631-3083

General Synod Office Phone: + 64 9 521-4439 www.anglican.org.nz

Postal: General Synod Office, P O Box 87-188, Meadowbank, Auckland 1742, New Zealand



The Centre for Anglican Women's Studies, commonly known as the **Anglican Women's Studies Centre** was set up to serve and to advance the interests and needs of the women of this Church particularly those undertaking Theological training.

The Link Representatives from each Diocese and Hui Amorangi have been chosen for their leadership ability to identify, gather, facilitate, resource and encourage women in their educational preparation for ministry whether lay or ordained. It is hoped that the Anglican Women's Studies Centre can continue to enjoy the support of each Diocese and Hui Amorangi in this endeavour.

The issue of increasing numbers of women in representative positions across the councils and committees of the Church is seen as a high priority and the practice of intentional mentoring by those already in national and international representative roles is seen as a good way to expose women of this church to fulfill their potential as leaders.

Ensuring that women's voices and stories are heard now and in the future is also one of our continued aims whether it be by traditional methods of publication or using more contemporary technologies like website publication. We remain optimistic that through continued support, the needs of women throughout this Province will be valued and recognized.



Council for Anglican Women's Studies — 2016

TIKANGA MAORI -

- The Ven Mere Wallace
mere.wallace@westcoastdwb.org.nz
- Revd Numia Tomoana
numia_5@hotmail.com

TIKANGA POLYNESIA -

- Revd C. Amy Chambers
mumsy@connect.com.fj
- Revd Evelini Langi
evelini_langi@yahoo.com

TIKANGA PAKEHA

- Revd Erice Fairbrother
ecfairbrother@waiapu.com
- The Ven Carole Hughes (Convenor)
carolesunrise@xtra.co.nz

Anglican Women's Studies Centre Diocesan & Hui Amorangi Link Representatives

Diocese of Auckland

- Revd Nyasha Gumbeze
tamarisk1999@yahoo.co.nz

Diocese of Christchurch

- Revd Jenni Carter
jenni.carter@xtra.co.nz

Diocese of Dunedin

- Jenny Campbell
jennycam@xtra.co.nz

Diocese of Nelson

- Kaye Dyer
kaye@mightymessage.com

Diocese of Waiapu

- Revd Rosemary Carey
rbcarey.carey@gmail.com

Diocese of Waikato & Taranaki

- The Ven Val Riches
vjrishes@outlook.com

Diocese of Wellington

- Revd Jenny Chalmers
jenny@clear.net.nz

Diocese of Polynesia

- Refer to Tikanga Polynesia Councilors (see above)

Hui Amorangi o te Tairawhiti

- Ruihana Paenga
ruihanaapaenga@gmail.com

Hui Amorangi o te Tai Tokerau

- Revd Jenny Quince
quincemail@xtra.co.nz

Hui Amorangi o te Manawa o te Wheke

- Rahera Biddle
R.biddle@pirirakauhauora.org.nz

Hui Amorangi o te Upoko o te Ika

- Revd Leonie Joseph
raulee04@xtra.co.nz

Hui Amorangi o te Waipounamu

- The Ven Mabel Grennell
mabel.tekorowai@xtra.co.nz

EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER: The Anglican Women's Studies Centre is committed to encouraging and enabling women's voices and perspectives from across the diversity of the Church to be shared more widely. We acknowledge that women's experiences of church differ considerably and that resultant theological perspectives also differ considerably. In general the AWSC does not exercise editorial control, rather we welcome as many voices as are willing to contribute.